

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-1074

339 Hillen Avenue

East Towson, Baltimore County

1880-1890

Private

The dwelling at 339 Hillen Avenue was constructed between 1880 and 1890 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures.

This single-family dwelling is sited on a level grassy lot set close to the road with a gravel driveway. It sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation and is re-clad with vinyl siding. The western section is the original house of log construction. This single-pile block is two stories in height with a side gable roof. The first story on the façade is two bays wide and the second is three bays. The rear elevation has a central entrance flanked by a single window, and the second story is two bays wide. The vinyl siding appears to be covering the center entry on the façade of this section. One concrete block chimney rises above the roof, which is covered with asphalt shingles. Lateral to the façade is a two-story wood frame addition, two bays wide with a side gable roof. A shed roof porch, supported with replacement square wood posts, covers the full-width of the addition. The addition features an interior parged brick chimney, a single-leaf flush wood replacement door, and a boxed cornice encased in aluminum siding. All of the windows are replacement 1/1 double-hung vinyl sashes. A circa 1970 shed is associated with this property.

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1074

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed between 1880 and 1890, this single-family dwelling is sited on a level grassy lot set close to the road with a gravel driveway. It sits on a solid random rubble stone foundation and is re-clad with vinyl siding. The western section is the original house of log construction. This single-pile block is two stories in height with a side gable roof. The first story on the façade is two bays wide and the second is three bays. The rear elevation has a central entrance flanked by a single window, and the second story is two bays wide. The vinyl siding appears to be covering the center entry on the façade of this section. One concrete block chimney rises above the roof, which is covered with asphalt shingles. Lateral to the façade is a two-story wood frame addition, two bays wide with a side gable roof. A shed roof porch, supported with replacement square wood posts, covers the full-width of the addition. The addition features an interior parged brick chimney, a single-leaf flush wood replacement door, and a boxed cornice encased in aluminum siding. All of the windows are replacement 1/1 double-hung vinyl sashes.

A circa 1970 shed is associated with this property. It has a gable roof, double-leaf flush door, and is clad with corrugated sheet metal.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1074

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1880-1890	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1880-1890		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The house at 339 Hillen Avenue was constructed between 1880 and 1890 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1074

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>.12 Acre</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>Unknown</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Towson</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is located at 339 Hillen Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with Tax Map 70, Parcel 891 since its construction between 1880 and 1890.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	J. Bunting, K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	November 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

East Towson: Planimetric Data



Prepared by:
Baltimore County Office of Planning
401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
June, 2001



Scale

1 inch = 200 feet

1:2400

100 0 100 200 Feet

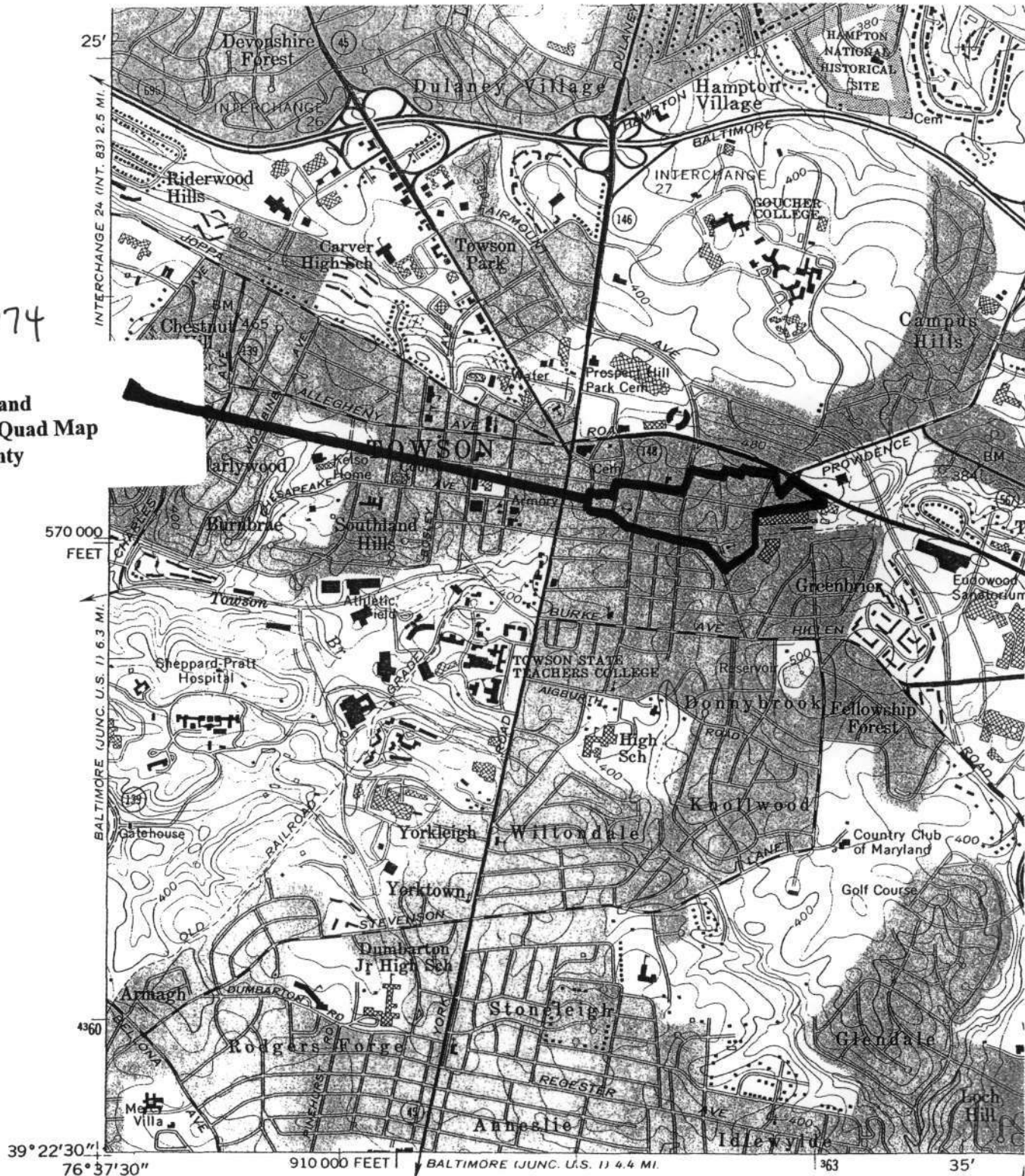
Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Paved Parking / Driveways
- Hydrographic Features
- Buildings
- Vegetation

Data Sources:
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)
Coordinate System:
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
Elevations in Feet: NAVD83 Vertical Datum
Date of Data Capture: March 1996
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

BA-1074

East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)
5662 SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

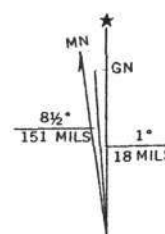
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-1074

HOUSE, 339 HILLEN ROAD
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

SOUTH ELEVATION

1 of 3



BA-1074

HOUSE, 339 HILLEN ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRALERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPO

SOUTHWEST CORNER

2 of 3



BA-1074
HOUSE, 339 HILLEN ROAD
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILERIES
10/2001
MD-SHPD
NORTHEAST CORNER
3 of 3

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

THE ARRON HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

339 Hillen Road

second

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

VICINITY OF

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Sammuel and Rebbecca Arron

Telephone #:

685-8264

STREET & NUMBER

416 Charles St.

Maryland 21202

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore, Md.

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21214

STATE

Liber #:

4442/291

Folio #:

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

BA-1074 - 339 Hillen Road

before 1898

This frame house is built in two sections. The western part is of 1 1/2 story height, three bays wide by one bay deep, while the eastern part is a full two stories high and measures two bays wide by one bay deep. The eastern section has a porch across its south facade.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED |

CHECK ONE

- ☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

339 Hillen

This frame duplex was built in the late 19th century. A three bay wide by one bay deep section on the west is a true 1 1/2 story dwelling. The two bay wide by one bay deep section to the east is two stories tall. Both parts are covered with grey wooden siding.

The west sections east-west gable roof is lower than that of the east section. Its central door is flanked by 6/6 windows on the south facade. 6/3 windows appear in the three bays in the half story above. A central flue rises between the two western bays.

The east section has a door in the western bay of the south facade. The other three bays on this side and the two on the east end contain 6/6 windows. A semi-enclosed porch running across the south facade has a shed roof supported by thin square posts.

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD**

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☐ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES**BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

For this house, one picture is worth a thousand words. Standing from the north east, this house is over shadowed by the newly-developed high rise on Joppa Road. This picture illustrates in excellent contrast between the decadence of West Towson and the antiquity of East Towson.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollock/coordinator Merry Stinson/architect 7/77

ORGANIZATION

Committee to Save E. Towson/Towson Ymca

DATE

823-8870

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Ave.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

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The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



BA-1074
Arron House
339 Hillen Rd.
South
Towson, Md.

Merry Stinson
1977